

**APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2004**

**ATTENDANCE:** Evonne M. Klein, First Selectwoman; Joseph Miceli;  
Barbara Thorne; Robert Harrel, Jr.; Linda Santarella

**STAFF:** John Crary, Administrative Officer

**OTHERS:** Wayne Fox, Town Counsel

**CALL TO ORDER**

The First Selectwoman called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

**FIRST SELECTWOMAN'S REPORT**

The First Selectwoman reported that the sidewalk in front of Kelly Real Estate on the Post Road is sinking and causing a safety hazard. She stated that the State came in and repaired the catch basins but did a terrible job and now the whole sidewalk is in bad shape and needs to be repaired. She reported that there is new technology that will repair the sidewalk by raising it hydraulically and the cost would be \$300.00. Ms. Thorne questioned whether it was the State's responsibility to repair it and Ms. Klein replied that the Town and the State have been going back and forth on this and she felt it was a safety situation in which one of the Town's residents could get hurt and wanted to take care of it right away. Mr. Harrel noted that up a block on the Post Road there was a similar sidewalk situation. Ms. Klein stated she would look into the other location that needed repair.

Ms. Klein reported that notices went out pertaining to meetings on the CL&P Glenbrook cable project. She noted that the first meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup> will begin with a business community overview from 6-7:00 p.m., a one-on-one with representatives from CL&P from 7-8:00 p.m., and from 8-9:00 p.m. another overview and questions and answers from the general public. She encouraged everyone to be part of this important meeting. Ms. Klein continued that on October 5<sup>th</sup> the Citing Council will tour the proposed routes and on October 6<sup>th</sup> there will be a public hearing.

Ms. Klein reported that she is delighted on the progress of the Board's priorities.

She reported that the Procaccini property negotiations are still underway and a future acquisition was being looked at.

Ms. Klein reported that one of the Board's most important issues was traffic and she had seen some improvement but not enough. She stated that she continues to work with legislatures, SWRPA, and noted that she was a member of the CCM Transportation Committee.

Ms. Klein reported that the repairs at the Noroton Railroad station had begun today. She stated that the roof, siding and glass repair should be completed in 2 ½ weeks and will not interfere with commuter times.

Ms. Klein reported that she has successfully negotiated with the CT DOT to repair the pedestrian overpass at Noroton Heights Railroad station and painting has been scheduled to start in the summer and it will be a staged project.

Ms. Klein stated that they need a Senior Center Task Force to get some recommendations together and if anyone was interested in serving, they should contact her.

Ms. Klein reported that Charter Revision will be on future agendas.

She also stated that there will be a mid-month staff meeting to review project progress reports from Department Heads to get a better idea of all projects.

Ms. Klein reported that on September 11<sup>th</sup> the Board will place a wreath at the monument behind the Middlesex Middle School at 11:00 a.m. and everyone was invited to join them.

Ms. Klein reported that she did some research on minority representation and reviewed her results of party breakdowns for most Committees. She stated that there had been no violations.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Mr. Crary reported that one of the initiatives for this year was to look at new technology for the Parks and Recreation Department to have internet registration and credit card payment for Town permits and services. He stated that this new software would make it easier for residents and provide better service. He reported that meetings were held this week with software companies. He added that this technology would be transferable to other departments and the Public Works Department was being looked at next.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) **Consider and Take Action on Resolution to approve the recommendation of the Internet Technology Committee regarding Blum Shapiro proposal for services**

**\*\* MR. HARREL MOVED TO WAIVE THE READING AND APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:**

**WHEREAS, WALLY PUGH, CHAIRMAN OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE, REPORTED TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT THEIR MEETING ON AUGUST 30, 2004, AND**

**WHEREAS, MR. PUGH RECOMMENDED THAT THE TOWN ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BLUM SHAPIRO TO ASSIST IN SELECTING AN INTEGRATED SOFTWARE PACKAGE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF PLANNING & ZONING, BUILDING, ASSESSOR, HEALTH AND TAX COLLECTOR, AND**

**WHEREAS, FUNDS FOR SUCH A PURCHASE WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE 2004/05 BUDGET AND A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION WILL BE NEEDED TO PERMIT THE PLAN TO PROCEED, AND**

**WHEREAS, THE TOWN'S CONSULTANT, BLUM SHAPIRO, HAS PROPOSED A BUDGET OF \$25,000 TO PAY FOR THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES THAT ARE NEEDED NOW THEREFORE BE IT,**

**RESOLVED, THAT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN HEREBY APPROVES THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE AND REQUESTS THAT THE BOARD OF FINANCE APPROVE A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION OF \$25,000 TO PERMIT THE PROJECT TO COMMENCE.**

**\*\* MS. THORNE SECONDED.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Dr. Miceli commented that this was a big step forward.

**b) Discuss proposed parking rate increases for permits and vouchers**

Mr. Crary reported that last spring the State proposed a new lease for the parking spaces at the railroad station and offered that the 20% fee to the State will be returned if it was used to improve the level of service at the train station and parking areas. Mr. Crary stated that he took a survey of neighboring town rates for parking permits and vouchers. He proposed that parking permits be increased from \$235 per year to \$288 per year and daily vouchers be increased from \$2.50 per day to \$3.00 per day. Mr. Crary stated that this would generate \$125,000 in new revenue to the Town and would be used to support the services provided in the parking fund. Mr. Crary stated that if the Board approves, there would then be a public hearing scheduled.

Ms. Klein stated that she was waiting for the lease to be returned from the DOT and had a meeting scheduled with them tomorrow. Ms. Thorne stated she would move on the public hearing but was not in favor of the increase until the lease was received.

**c) Discuss proposed changes to the Darien Town Code regarding revenues from certain parking spaces**

Mr. Crary stated that assuming that parking rates are increased, the Town Code currently reads that any excess in revenue in the parking fund goes into the Town's general surplus. He noted that the language would have to be changed to state that the funds would be used for capital improvements.

**d) Discuss Draft Shellfish Ordinance**

Ms. Klein reported that Sandy MacDonald, Bud Raleigh, herself, and several others met and read through the shellfish policies and ordinances line by line. She stated that their main goal was to enhance recreational shellfishing and healthy waterways. She reported that there will be a public informational session on September 29<sup>th</sup>, then a vote will be taken, and it will be passed on to the RTM.

Mr. Sandy MacDonald then reviewed a drawing noting the Darien waters. He defined private, natural and recreational shellfish grounds and stated that Scotts Cove was Darien's largest open recreational area that is approved for shellfish consumption.

Mr. Bud Raleigh stated that they looked at the recreational permit process and noted that between 150 to 200 permits are issued annually to Darien residents. He also stated that he hoped to develop Scotts Cove as a recreational area for public access and farmed by commercial people. He continued that they will survey the area to make this work.

Ms. Klein stated that this was an early on discussion with the objective to enhance recreational shellfishing and the State had been consulted about the norms and they had collected information and studied this very thoroughly. She thanked Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Raleigh for their hard work on this project.

**e) Consider and Take Action on Resolution to release the Town's easement at 69 Noroton Ave. in exchange for a payment of \$8,000**

Dr. Miceli questioned what the easement was for and stated he obtained an Assessor's map that was not the same shape as the property map. He stated that the Town already had access to this so they did not need the access in question. Ms. Santarella stated that this issue was discussed previously in Executive Session and she was very disappointed that the Parks and Recreation Commission felt the Town had no future use for this and

she would not give up a cow path. She continued that she would vote against it because it is land and it goes against the Town Plan of Development and she would not want to give it up. Ms. Klein stated that the Town did not own the land and they were giving up the right to pass over it. Town Counsel reported that Tom Golden had obtained an appraisal and the Town had obtained one also, and Mr. Golden agreed to the Town's appraisal of \$8,000.

**\*\* DR. MICELI MOVED TO WAIVE THE READING AND APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:**

**WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF DARIEN HAS HAD AN EASEMENT ACROSS PRIVATE PROPERTY AT 69 NOROTON AVE. SINCE 1964, AND**

**WHEREAS, THE EASEMENT WAS ACQUIRED TO PERMIT AN ACCESS POINT TO BAKER FIELD IF IT WAS DETERMINED AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE TO BE REQUIRED, AND**

**WHEREAS, DUE TO THE DEMOLITION OF THE FORMER BAKER SCHOOL BUILDING THE EASEMENT IS NOW VIEWED AS NOT BEING NEEDED, AND**

**WHEREAS, THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION HAS BEEN CONSULTED TO DETERMINE THEIR OPINION ON THE NEED FOR AND USEFULNESS OF SUCH AN ACCESS POINT; NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED: THAT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN HEREBY APPROVES THE RELEASE OF THIS EASEMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR A PAYMENT OF \$8,000.**

**\*\* MS. THORNE SECONDED.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR IN FAVOR AND ONE OPPOSED (MS. SANTARELLA).**

**f) Consider and Take Action on a request to hold the Darien Road Race on September 19, 2004**

Ms. Klein reported that this request came in late and that the Police Department had been contacted for the route. Ms. Santarella requested that in the future they come forward with a plan because last year it was a circus. Ms. Klein noted that this was going to be the group's last road race.

- \*\* MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO HOLD THE DARIEN ROAD RACE ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2004.**
- \*\* MR. HARREL SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**g) Consider and Take Action on a request to hold the Big Rig Gig – 9/26/04**

- \*\* MR. HARREL MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO HOLD THE BIG RIG GIG ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2004.**
- \*\* MS. SANTARELLA SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from the public.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**August 30, 2004 Special Executive Session Meeting**

- \*\* MR. HARREL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING OF AUGUST 30, 2004.**
- \*\* DR. MICELI SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| September 7, 2004  | Planning & Zoning Commission Planning Meeting at 8:00 p.m. |
| September 7, 2004  | Planning & Zoning Commission General Meeting at 8:00 p.m.  |
| September 15, 2004 | Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. |
| September 16, 2004 | Operations Planning Committee Meeting at 12:00 p.m.        |
| September 20, 2004 | Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.            |
| September 21, 2004 | Board of Finance Regular Meeting at 8:15 p.m.              |

**OTHER BUSINESS**

(A two-thirds majority vote is required to add an item to the agenda)

- \*\* MR. HARREL MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- \*\* MS. SANTARELLA SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna DeVito  
Telesco Secretarial Services